

CREDITON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

For the Year 1969

Medical Officer of Health

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Surveyor and Public Health Inspector

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Technical Assistant

D.M. WIDGERY.

Mr. Chairman & Members of the
Crediton Urban District Council.

I have the honour to present my report for 1969.

River pollution became a thing of the past in 1969 and as far as the urban district is concerned no untreated sewage now gains access to streams or rivers. The new works settled down to produce very good analysis results.

The provision of a new public convenience did a lot to give the town a better image but progress on the re-housing of people living in sub-standard houses is slow, and the elderly people most affected, haven't the time left to wait.

My thanks are again due to Mr. Blake and his staff for the compilation and preparation of this report.

I am, Ladies & Gentlemen,
Your Obedient Servant,

N.F. SAWERS.
Medical Officer of Health.



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SECTION A

1. STATISTICS OF THE AREA.

| | | | | | | | |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----------|
| Area (in acres) ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1,096 |
| Registrar General's estimate of population | ... | ... | | | | | 5,090 |
| No. of inhabited houses at the end of 1969 according to the rate book ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1,886 |
| Rateable Value ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | £217,803 |
| Product of Penny Rate ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | £834 |

2. VITAL STATISTICS.

(a) Live Births

| Male | Female | Total 1969 | Total 1968 |
|------|--------|---------------|---------------|
| 46 | 41 | 87 | 92 |

Births illegitimate

| Male | Female | Total 1969 | Total 1968 |
|------|--------|---------------|---------------|
| 3 | 3 | 6 | 3 |

Crude birth rate per 1,000 of population

| | | | | | |
|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| 1969 | 17.1 | 1968 | 18.5 | 1967 | 13.9 |
|------|------|------|------|------|------|

(b) Still Births.

There was one still birth in 1969.

(c) Deaths.

(a) Death rate.

| Male | Female | Total | Total | Total |
|------|--------|-------|-------|-------|
| | | 1969 | 1968 | 1967 |
| 52 | 38 | 90 | 61 | 63 |

Crude death rate per 1,000 of population 17.7

(b) Deaths from puerperal causes Nil

(c) Infantile Mortality
(Deaths of Infants under one year of age) 2

(d) Causes of death as follows:-

| Causes of Death | Sex | All Ages | 0- | 5- | 15- | 25- | 35- | 45- | 55- | 65- | 75- |
|--|-----|-------------|----|----|-----|-----|-----|--------|-----|--------|--------|
| Malignant Neoplasm M Buccal Cavity Etc. F | | 1 - | | | | | | | | 1 - | |
| Malignant Neoplasm M Oesophagus F | | 1 - | | | | | | 1 - | | | |
| Malignant Neoplasm M Stomach F | | 1 - | | | | | | | | 1 - | |
| Malignant Neoplasm M Intestine F | | 2 - | | | | | | | | 1 - | 1 - |

| Causes of Death | Sex | All Ages | 0- | 5- | 15- | 25- | 35- | 45- | 55- | 65- | 75- |
|--|--------|-------------|----|--------|-----|-----|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Malignant Neoplasm Lung, Bronchus | M F | 7 1 | | | | | | 1 - | 1 1 | 4 - | 1 - |
| Malignant Neoplasm Breast | M F | - 2 | | | | | - 1 | | | - 1 | |
| Malignant Neoplasm Prostate | M - | 1 | | | | | | | | 1 | |
| Leukaemia | M F | - 1 | | | | | | | | - 1 | |
| Other Malignant Neoplasms etc. | M F | 1 3 | | - 1 | | | | - 1 | | - 1 | 1 - |
| Diabetes Mellitus | M F | - 1 | | | | | | | | | - 1 |
| Other Diseases of Nervous System, etc | M F | 1 - | | | | | | 1 - | | | |
| Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease | M F | 1 - | | | | | | 1 - | | | |
| Hypertensive Disease | M F | - 3 | | | | | | | | - 1 | - 2 |
| Ischaemic Heart Disease | M F | 14 5 | | | | | 1 - | 1 - | 4 - | 1 3 | 7 2 |
| Other forms of Heart Disease | M F | 1 3 | | | | | | | | | 1 3 |

| Causes of Death | Sex | All ges | 0- | 5- | 15- | 25- | 35- | 45- | 55- | 65- | 75- |
|---|--------|------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|---------|----------|----------|
| Cerebrovascular Disease | M F | 6 8 | | | | | | | 1 - | 3 - | 2 8 |
| Other Diseases of Circulatory System | M F | 2 - | | | | | | | 1 - | | 1 - |
| Influenza | M F | - 1 | | | | | | | | | - 1 |
| Pneumonia | M F | 1 8 | | | | | | | | 1 3 | - 5 |
| Bronchitis and Emphysema | M F | 6 - | | | | | | | 2 - | 3 - | 1 - |
| Other Diseases of Digestive System | M F | 1 - | | | | | | | 1 - | | |
| Nephritis and Nephrosis | M F | 1 - | | | | | | | | 1 - | |
| Hyperplasia of Prostate | M F | 1 - | | | | | | | | 1 | |
| Congenital Anomalies | M F | 2 - | 2 - | | | | | | | | |
| Symptoms and Ill Defined Conditions | M F | 1 1 | | | | | | | | | 1 1 |
| Suicide and Self-Inflicted Injuries | M F | - 1 | | | | | | | | - 1 | |
| Total All Causes | M F | 52 38 | 2 - | - 1 | - - | - - | 1 1 | 5 1 | 10 1 | 18 11 | 16 23 |

four

SECTION B

3. GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES.

(a) Nursing Service.

A resident District Nurse employed by the Devon County Council adequately provides this service.

(b) Care of Mothers and Young Children.

These are visited at home by two Devon County Council Health Visitors.

(c) Maternity & Child Welfare Services.

The District Nurse Midwife working in co-operation with the General Practitioners provide the basis for ante-natal care, confinement and post-natal care. In addition home helps are provided by the Devon County Council in appropriate cases.

In cases where home conditions are unsuitable confinement arrangements are made for the mother to go to either Mowbray House or The City Hospital, Exeter.

Child welfare and maternity clinics are held at Newcombes weekly and during 1969 attendances were as follows:-

| <u>Infants</u> | <u>Toddlers</u> | <u>Children 2-5</u> | <u>Total</u> | <u>Total</u> | <u>Total</u> |
|----------------|-----------------|---------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| | | | <u>1969</u> | <u>1968</u> | <u>1967</u> |
| 883 | 362 | 351 | 1596 | 1992 | 2191 |

Vaccinations, diphtheria, whooping cough and poliomyelitis immunisations are available at this Clinic but a fuller use could be made of this service.

(d) Tuberculosis and Venereal Disease.

There are no Centres in Crediton for these diseases. Cases of tuberculosis are seen by the Tuberculosis Officer at Ivybank, Exeter and he then decided whether they are nursed at home or sent to Hawkmoor Sanatorium.

(e) Mass Radiography.

Sessions in CREDITON are arranged at fortnightly intervals and almost the whole population has now been screened.

(f) Infectious Diseases.

These are nursed at home and if the Doctor in attendance considers they should be transferred to hospital they are removed to Whipton Isolation Hospital.

(g) Ambulances.

The Devon County Council control the ambulance service, at present one ambulance is stationed in CREDITON and run by the CREDITON Branch of the Red Cross.

(h) Laboratory Works.

All laboratory examinations required are carried out by the Public Health Laboratory Service at Exeter at the new department of Pathology at Wonford.

(i) Meals on Wheels.

The Meals on Wheels service operated by the W.V.S. provided 2,809 meals during the year. Meals are provided by the Devon County Council kitchen at Newcombes and distributed by members of the W.V.S.

SECTION C

4. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES.

(a) Sewerage.

In spite of further delays with regard to delivery of machinery the sewage from Crediton was first properly treated by single filtration on 13th February, 1969.

Other parts of the works proceeded slowly but it was possible on the 4th June, 1969 to see the culmination of many years effort when the new works were officially inaugurated by Gerald Whitmarsh, Esq., M.A., F.C.A., Chairman of the Devon County Council.

Samples taken during the year produced the following results:-

| | | <u>Mg/litre</u> |
|----------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| 9th April, 1969 | Suspended Solids | 36 |
| | B.O.D. | 41.5 |
| 15th July, 1969 | Suspended Solids | 14 |
| | B.O.D. | 9.7 |
| 16th September, 1969 | Suspended Solids | 25 |
| | B.O.D. | 8.5 |
| 28th October, 1969 | Suspended Solids | 36 |
| | B.O.D. | 7.5 |

The gas from the heated sludge digestion did not prove completely adequate for needs and some use had to be made of mains gas supply.

Fordton pumping station came into use and all the houses were connected to the sewer with the result that at the end of the year the mill leat was free from crude sewage for the first time for many, many years.

The only major connection still to be made at the end of the year was from a poultry processing plant but this was due mainly to a change in ownership.

Main Sewers were surveyed by television method and several minor defects were located. Two sections of the sewer require considerable further examination as large defects may be present.

(b) Water.

Supplies of water from the North Devon Water Board continue to be adequate with regard to quality and quantity as far as the urban district is concerned.

77 samples were taken during the year and submitted for bacteriological examination. One of these samples proved unsatisfactory but re-sampling indicated a good result.

(c) Public Conveniences.

New public conveniences were provided during the year and after an early spate of vandalism of an inconvenient type rather than anything the conveniences were left in a condition to satisfy their users. Constant hot water is available but unfortunately it is not possible to constantly renew the plug chains.

The provision of this new toilet block enabled the unsatisfactory conveniences at Union Road to be closed.

The two remaining toilet blocks were in reasonable condition but in view of their age proposals ought to be considered for their renovations and bring facilities provided up to date.

(d) Refuse Collection.

The Council's kerbside collection continues to satisfy the majority of householders and complaints are very small indeed. A cost survey on back door collection on two estates produced figures unacceptable to the Council and in fact a large number of the residents of these estates were quite happy with the present service.

Disposal by crude tipping still carries on but as no complaints are received it is unlikely that any other system will be adopted in the near future due to cost and site difficulties. The Council however should not be prepared to let this matter drift on too much into the future.

(e) Rodent Control.

The rodent population of the district appears to be under control and work carried out in the year was:-

| | | |
|----------------|----------|---------|
| Refuse Tip | 1 visit | 2 hours |
| Private Houses | 6 visits | 6 hours |
| Factories | 1 visit | 1 hour |

(f) Sanitary Inspections.

(1) Summary of Visits.

| | |
|--------------------|-----|
| Council Properties | 311 |
| Private Houses | 103 |
| Food Premises | 21 |
| Offices, etc. | 34 |
| Slaughterhouse | 123 |
| Council Tip | 77 |
| Other Premises | 57 |

(2) Notices Served.

Housing Acts.

| | |
|---------------------------------|--------------|
| Time & Place Notices | 3 properties |
| Undertaking given not to re-let | 1 property |
| Closing Order | 2 properties |

Public Health Acts.

| | |
|-------------------|--------------|
| Section 92 and 93 | 1 property |
| Informal | 8 properties |

(g) Offices, Shops & Railway Premises Act, 1963.

Inspections and registrations continued under this Act and details are:-

| <u>Type</u> | <u>No. Registered</u> | <u>No. Inspected in 1969</u> |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------|
| Offices | 22 | 4 |
| Retail Shops | 40 | 8 |
| Catering Establishments | 4 | 1 |
| | 66 | 13 |
| nine | | |

A total of 22 visits were carried out during the year and 9 contraventions were noted as follows:-

| | | |
|---------|---------------------------|---|
| Section | 6 Temperature | 2 |
| " | 8 Lighting | 1 |
| " | 10 Washing Facilities | 1 |
| " | 12 Clothing Accommodation | 1 |
| " | 16 Floors | 2 |
| " | 24 First Aid | 2 |

2 accidents were reported in shops and offices during the year, both of a minor nature.

SECTION D

5. HOUSING.

General Housing.

No Council Houses were erected during the year.

Private Houses completed were:-

| | <u>1969</u> | <u>1968</u> | <u>1967</u> |
|----------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Two Bedrooms | 13 | 25 | 27 |
| Three Bedrooms | 11 | 19 | 24 |
| Four Bedrooms | 11 | 9 | 8 |
| | <u>35</u> | <u>53</u> | <u>59</u> |

19 houses were under construction on January, 1st and 54 were under construction on December, 31st.

Housing List.

The position at the end of 1969 compared with previous years was:-

| | 1969 | 1968 |
|---|------------|------------|
| No. on Council's Waiting List already resident in the Urban District. | 101 | 95 |
| No. on Council's Waiting List wanting to move into the town. | 40 | 35 |
| No. of key workers wanting accommodation. | <u>1</u> | <u>Nil</u> |
| | <u>142</u> | <u>130</u> |

Accommodation required by these families is:-

| | <u>1969</u> | <u>1968</u> |
|----------------|-------------|-------------|
| One Bedroom | 70 | 58 |
| Two Bedrooms | 46 | 46 |
| Three Bedrooms | 21 | 22 |
| Four Bedrooms | 5 | 4 |

Building Regulations.

The following inspection were made to enforce the Building Regulations:-

| | |
|-------------------|-----|
| Footings | 114 |
| Foundations | 101 |
| Oversite concrete | 67 |
| Damp proof course | 72 |
| Drains | 211 |
| Routine | 120 |
| Completion | 70 |

Improvement Grants.

Standard Grant applications only were received during the year as follows:-

| | |
|-------------------------------|----|
| No. of applications received | 11 |
| No. of applications approved | 8 |
| No. of applications refused | - |
| No. of improvements completed | 9 |

| | | |
|--------------------|-------------|--------------|
| Amenities provided | Baths | 8 |
| | Basins | 9 |
| | Hot water | 6 (3 points) |
| | supplies | 3 (2 points) |
| | W.C.'s | 7 |
| | Food stores | 6 |

Amount paid in Grants £1,432

Caravan Sites.

No difficulties have arisen during the year, the three residential caravans at Glencreevy and their sites being maintained satisfactorily.

Rent Act, 1957.

No applications were received during the year under this Act.

SECTION E

6. FOOD AND DRUGS.

During the year the following food was surrounded as being unfit:-

| | |
|--------------------|---------|
| Canned Meats | 8 lbs. |
| Other canned foods | 35 lbs. |
| Other food | 28 lbs. |
| | <hr/> |
| | 71 lbs. |
| | <hr/> |

Food Hygiene Regulations.

The details of food shops and their type are identical to those already provided in the 1966 report.

Shops continue to be properly maintained, with the exception of a few very minor items.

Slaughter of Animals.

100% meat inspections required 123 visits to the slaughterhouse.
Carcases inspected were:-

| | 1969 | 1968 | 1967 | 1966 | 1965 |
|---------------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Cattle | 295 | 280 | 336 | 308 | 295 |
| Calves | 17 | 15 | 25 | 30 | 19 |
| Sheep & Lambs | 652 | 1066 | 1156 | 1931 | 987 |
| Pigs | 633 | 682 | 713 | 783 | 749 |

The following carcasses and offal were condemned:-

| | | |
|----------------|------------------|----------|
| Part Carcasses | 1 lamb | 2 lbs. |
| | offal | 887 lbs. |
| | Pig's heads T.B. | 84 lbs. |

During the year the Crediton R.D.C. were forced to withdraw their inspection staff and the duties were restarted by the Urban.

Poultry Inspector.

Again no poultry inspection has been carried out and rejection is only done by spot checks carried out by the Factory Staff.

Figures supplied by the unit are:-

| | |
|-------------------------|------------|
| Birds processed in year | 646,000 |
| Type of bird | Hens only. |
| Rejected | 51,680 |

This business changed hands late in the year and a much higher standard is now anticipated.

SECTION F

7. FACTORIES.

22 inspections of factory premises were carried out during the year, there being 54 registered factories.

Details of one outworker were notified by another authority, and 16 were notified by a firm within the district making children's wear.

SECTION G

8. NOISE.

Several complaints regarding noise were received from an area after the installation of grinders in a new mill.

The complaints were justified and negotiation were still in progress with the firm at the end of year to provide silencers and screening.

Appendix 1
Carcases and Offal Inspected and Condemned
In Whole or in Part.

| | Cattle Excluding Cows | Cows | Elve | Sheep & Lambs | Pigs | Horses |
|--|-----------------------------|------|------|---------------------|------|--------|
| Number Killed | 295 | - | 17 | 652 | 633 | Nil |
| Number inspected | 295 | - | 17 | 652 | 633 | Nil |
| <u>All diseases except</u> | | | | | | |
| <u>Tuberculosis and</u> | | | | | | |
| <u>Cysticerci</u> | | | | | | |
| Whole carcasses condemned | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil |
| Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned | 119 | Nil | Nil | 35 | 5 | Nil |
| Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis and Cysticerci | 40.3 | Nil | Nil | 5.4 | 0.8 | Nil |
| <u>Tuberculosis only</u> | | | | | | |
| Whole Carcasses condemned | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil |
| Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil | 7 | Nil |
| Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil | 1.1 | Nil |
| <u>Cysticercosis</u> | | | | | | |
| Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil |
| Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil |
| Generalised and totally condemned | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil |

